

Listing of Claims.

Please amend the claims as shown below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

- 1-5. (Canceled).
6. (Currently amended) ~~Nucleic~~ An isolated nucleic acid sequence encoding:
_____ (a) a peptide immunochemically reactive with antibodies to the Epstein Barr Virus (EBV), comprising at least part of the VCA-p18 or VCA-p40 protein, encoded within the EBV open reading frames BFRF3 and BdRF1, respectively, or
_____ (b) a functional variant ~~thereof~~ of said peptide described in (a).
7. (Currently amended) ~~Nucleic~~ An isolated nucleic acid sequence, comprising ~~at least part of the nucleic acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO.: 1~~ or a subsequence thereof encoding an Epstein-Barr Virus peptide that is immunochemically reactive with antibodies to the Epstein-Barr Virus.
8. (Currently amended) ~~Nucleic~~ An isolated nucleic acid sequence, comprising ~~at least part of the nucleic acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO.: 3~~ or a subsequence thereof encoding an Epstein-Barr Virus peptide that is immunochemically reactive with antibodies to the Epstein-Barr Virus.
9. (Currently amended) A ~~recombinant~~ vector molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence according to claim 6.
- 10-22. (Canceled).

23. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method for the amplification and the detection of an Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence in a sample comprising:
- (a) providing a sample,
 - (b) amplifying an Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence present in the sample using with at least one nucleic acid sequence according to claim 6 or fragment thereof, and
 - (c) detecting the presence or absence of an amplified Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence in the amplification products, wherein the presence of an amplified Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence indicates that the sample contains an Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence according to claim 6 as primer(s) in order to perform a nucleic acid amplification of said Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence and to detect the amplified sequence.
24. (Canceled).
25. (Currently amended) ~~Test~~ A test amplification kit for detecting the presence of an Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence in a sample comprising:
- (a) a set of primers comprising at least one nucleic acid sequence according to claim 6 or fragment thereof,
 - (b) reagent(s) for the amplification of Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequences with the nucleic acid sequence(s) in (a), and
 - (c) reagent(s) for the detection of an amplified Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence in the amplification products for carrying out an amplification method according to claim 23.
26. (Currently amended) A recombinant vector molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence according to Claim 7.

27. (Currently amended) A ~~recombinant~~ vector molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence according to Claim 8.
28. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method for the amplification and the detection of an Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence in a sample comprising:
(a) providing a sample,
(b) amplifying an Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence present in the sample using with at least one nucleic acid sequence according to claim 7 or fragment thereof, and
(c) detecting the presence or absence of an amplified Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence in the amplification products, wherein the presence of an amplified Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence indicates that the sample contains an Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence according to claim 7 as primer(s) in order to perform a nucleic acid amplification of said Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence and to detect the amplified sequence.
29. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method for the amplification and the detection of an Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence in a sample comprising:
(a) providing a sample,
(b) amplifying an Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence present in the sample using with at least one nucleic acid sequence according to claim 8 or fragment thereof, and
(c) detecting the presence or absence of an amplified Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence in the amplification products, wherein the presence of an amplified Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence indicates that the sample contains an Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence according to claim 8 as primer(s) in order to perform a

~~nucleic acid amplification of said Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence and to detect the amplified sequence.~~

30. (New) A test amplification kit for detecting the presence of an Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence in a sample comprising:
 - (a) a set of primers comprising at least one nucleic acid sequence according to claim 7 or fragment thereof,
 - (b) reagent(s) for the amplification of Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequences with the nucleic acid sequence(s) in (a), and
 - (c) reagent(s) for the detection of an amplified Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence in the amplification products.
31. (New) A test amplification kit for detecting the presence of an Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence in a sample comprising:
 - (a) a set of primers comprising at least one nucleic acid sequence according to claim 8 or fragment thereof,
 - (b) reagent(s) for the amplification of Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequences with the nucleic acid sequence(s) in (a), and
 - (c) reagent(s) for the detection of an amplified Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence in the amplification products.